

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2007

A regular meeting of City Council was held on the above date for the transaction of general business.

Vaughn D. Spencer, President of Council, called the meeting to order.

The invocation was given by Managing Director R. Leon Churchill.

All present pledged to the flag.

ATTENDANCE

Council President Spencer
Councilor Fuhs, District 1
Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, District 2
Councilor Sterner, District 3
Councilor Baez, District 5

Mayor T. McMahon
Managing Director L. Churchill
City Auditor D. Cituk
City Solicitor C. Younger
City Clerk L. Kelleher

Absent

Councilor Marmarou, District 4
Councilor Waltman, District 6

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Council Commendation:

A commendation was issued to honor Jose Sobrino for his many volunteer efforts.

Mayoral Proclamations:

National Blood Donor Month; accepted by Carol L. Meeker of the Keystone Blood Center

Martin Luther King Day was presented to a representative for Ronald Rouse.

Honoring the Berks County Young Democrats; accepted by John Caltagirone

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cecelia Zuber, of Douglass Street, expressed her belief that City residents should not have to pay a recycling charge as the recycling material is collected and sold to produce new products. She suggested that Council study supply versus demand, the reuse ratio, and the amount of recyclables that are landfilled.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Council President Spencer called Council's attention to minutes from the December 11, 2006 and December 18, 2006 minutes and the agenda, including the items listed under the consent agenda, for the regular meeting.

Council President Spencer asked Council to consider adding the following legislation:

Ordinances for Introduction

- Ordinance setting the Solid Waste and Recycling
- Ordinance authorizing the purchase of 946 Morgantown Road
- Ordinance amending the Business Privilege Tax
- Ordinance amending the Business Privilege Tax

Resolutions

- Resolution directing the Administration to submit monthly financial reports

Councilor Baez moved, seconded by Councilor Fuhs, to approve the minutes from the December 11, 2006 and December 18, 2006 meetings and the agenda as amended, including the legislation listed under the consent agenda heading. The motion was approved unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution 1-2007 - Approving a sewage planning module for Sun Rich Fresh Foods Inc. A manufacturing facility on lot 1 (6.104 acres) of the

Reading Buttonwood Gateway bounded by Buttonwood Street, River Road, and Tulpehocken Streets **(Sewer Plant)**

Resolution 2-2007 - Approving a sewage planning module for Reading Truck Body, for the Construction of a shipping building and warehouse addition on their existing manufacturing facility bounded by Hancock Boulevard, Liggett Avenue, Gerry Street, and Norfolk Southern Rail **(Sewer Plant)**

Resolution 3-2007 - Approving a sewage planning module for the Reading Hospital to construct a building expansion east of Eighth Street between Penn and Cherry Streets **(Sewer Plant)**

Resolution 4-2007 - Approving a sewage planning module for Fairview Highland LLC for the development of six single family townhouses on 0.51 acres on an extension of South 15th Street south of Fairview Street **(Sewer Plant)**

Resolution 5-2007 - Approving a sewage planning module for Neversink LLC to subdivide and develop eight single family townhouses on 1.23 acres on an extension of 15 1/2 Street south of Fairview Street **(Sewer Plant)**

Resolution 6-2007 - Directing Met Ed to upgrade fixtures located at: 1260 Perkiomen Ave, 249 Windsor St, 100 Maple St, 1721 Mineral Spring Rd, 1474 Fairview St, 549 Minor St and 714 Miltmore St **(Traffic Engineering)**

Resolution 7-2007 - Directing Met Ed to install a fixture at 412 Windsor Street **(Traffic Engineering)**

Resolution 8-2007 - Directing Met Ed to upgrade fixtures at 1711 and 1738 Hampden Blvd **(Traffic Engineering)**

Resolution 9-2007 - Directing Met Ed to upgrade a fixture located at 1715 Lorraine Rd **(Traffic Engineering)**

Resolution 10-2007 - Directing Met Ed to upgrade fixtures located at 1718 and 1802 Holly Rd **(Traffic Engineering)**

Resolution 11-2007- Directing Met Ed to upgrade fixtures located at 21 and 40 Crestmont Ave. **(Traffic Engineering)**

Resolution 12-2007 - Directing Met Ed to upgrade a fixture located at 324 St. Bernadine St **(Traffic Engineering)**

Resolution 13-2007 - Directing Met Ed to upgrade a fixture located at 1301 Lancaster Ave. **(Traffic Engineering)**

Resolution 17-2007 - Directing Met Ed to upgrade a fixture located at 605 Minor St. **(Traffic Engineering)**

Resolution 18-2007 - Directing Met Ed to install a fixture at 421 Locust St. **(Traffic Engineering)**

Resolution 19-2007 - Directing Met Ed to upgrade a fixture located at 1029 Buttonwood St. **(Traffic Engineering)**

Resolution 20-2007 - Authorizing an execution of an agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for the acceptance of Tea-21 funds **(Public Works Director)**

Award of Contract- To Manderbach Ford, 4450 Fifth Street Highway, Temple, PA 19560, who is the lowest responsible bidder at a total bid price of \$223,395, for police vehicles **(Purchasing)**

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Mayor McMahon highlighted the report distributed to Council at the meeting which contained the following topics:

- State Auto Theft Task Force
- Update on the Anti-Gun Violence program
- Update on the new trash and recycling program
- Update on the Call Center

Councilor Fuhs requested a break-down of the ethnicity of those passing the Police Civil Service test.

Managing Director Churchill provided an explanation for the dramatic jump in the recycling fee. He explained that the recycling fee is based on the bid submitted by the contractor which considers the increase in overhead costs such as fuel and the high supply and low demand of recyclable products.

Councilor Fuhs requested that the recycling topic be scheduled for discussion at the January 16, 2007 Work Session. He asked that the Administration provide information on the following:

- Percentage of recyclable reused versus landfill
- Report on supply and demand of recyclables
- suggestions to reduce the recycling fee

Councilor Fuhs questioned if recycling customers on the City trash collection program pay more or less than those using independent contractors.

Managing Director Churchill replied that the recycling cost is divided equally among the 27,000 customers.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz agreed with the need for further discussion on the reuse and landfill of recyclables. She inquired about the transition issues which caused trash and recycling collection problems over the past week.

Managing Director Churchill responded expressing the belief that the problems were created by the volume caused by the holiday weekend.

Mayor McMahon added that the recycling collection problems were also caused by the late delivery of two additional recycling trucks. Also identified were problems related to detail on the trash collection maps provided to the contractor.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz spoke highly of improved collection techniques used by the City's new contractor BFI/Allied. She also agreed with the need for stronger anti-violence legislation.

Councilor Sterner inquired about the rationale for the new holiday collection schedule. He also noted the Administration's discrepancy in first stating that the recycling cost would be \$45; however, \$60 per year is being charged.

Managing Director Churchill responded that the initial figure of \$45 per year was solely the cost of the contractor. This cost does not contain the City's administrative overhead.

Mayor McMahon explained the new holiday collection schedule was suggested by the contractor as it is used in other cities. He explained that most people forget to put trash and/or recycling out the Saturday before

and instead put it out on the holiday. Therefore the trash or recycling is out for the remainder of the week.

Council President Spencer requested information on the rationale behind the change in the trash zones. He also inquired about what the recycling bids were based on.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

City Auditor Cituk read the report distributed to Council at the meeting. The report highlighted:

- collections of Admissions Tax
- collections of Real Estate Transfer Tax
- the snow/ice grant
- Auditor's 2007 goals

Councilor Fuhs asked the Auditor if he could estimate what additional revenue will be stimulated by the proposed semi-pro basketball team. The Auditor replied that he cannot provide an estimate but noted that the tickets for the semi-pro basketball games will be required to pay the 5% levy.

Mayor McMahon inquired when the Auditor would be able to provide year-end totals for the 2006 Admissions Tax, and Real Estate Transfer Tax. Auditor Cituk replied year-end totals should be completed by the third week in January.

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

There were no ordinances for final passage.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW ORDINANCES

Ordinance- Amending the City of Reading Codified Ordinances Section §1-116 Agendas by changing the posting requirement for the meeting agendas (**Council Staff**)

Ordinance- Amending the City of Reading Fee Schedule by removing the fee assessed for the installation of handicap parking signs and renewal (**Goodman-Hinnershitz**)

Ordinance- Amending Section 15-502 of the City of Reading Codified Ordinances, Parking Meter Zones, by adding two hour parking meter in

the 100 block of Washington Street (**Parking Authority/Council Staff**)

Ordinance- An ordinance amending the Codified Ordinances of the City of Reading, Chapter 6, Code Enforcement, Part 3, Section 9 Fees, Fee Schedule F-101, by adding a fee for the retrieval of EMS reports (**Solicitor**)

Ordinance- Authorizing the execution of a Cable Franchise Agreement between Comcast Cable and the City of Reading (**Cohen Telecommunications/Council Staff**)

Ordinance- Setting the City contracted waste collection and disposal fee for calendar year 2007 (**Managing Director**)

Ordinance- Setting the recycling collection fee for calendar year 2007 (**Managing Director**)

Ordinance- Authorizing the Mayor to purchase the property located at 946 Morgantown Road, from Marlis and Robin Pritz (**Managing Director**)

Ordinance- Amending Section 24-503 to clarify computation of volume of business for the purposes of the Business Privilege tax (**Finance Director**)

Ordinance- Amending sections 3-1 and 3-2 of the Business Privilege tax regulations to clarify the allocation of business done and gross volume of business for the purposes of calculating the business privilege tax (**Finance Director**)

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 14-2007 - Reappointing Burlee Adams to the Civic Center Authority (**Administrative Oversight**)

Resolution 15-2007 - Reappointing William James Walker to the Shade Tree Commission (**Administrative Oversight**)

Resolution 16-2007 - Reappointing Paul J. Hoh to the Library Board of Trustees (**Administrative Oversight**)

The Administrative Oversight Committee moved to adopt Resolutions 14-2007, 15-2007, and 16-2007.

Councilor Sterner noted the experience of those being reappointed this evening. He thanked them for continuing to serve the City.

Resolutions 14-2007, 15-2007, and 16-2007 was adopted by the following vote:

Yea: Baez, Fuhs, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Sterner, Spencer President – 5.

Nay: None – 0.

Resolution 21-2007 - Instructing the Administration to provide monthly finance reports to City Council as required by Section 1-186, Part 3 of the City of Reading Administrative Code **(Goodman-Hinnershitz)**

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Fuhs, to adopt Resolution 21-2007.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz explained the need for Council to have regular monthly reports on the City's finances. She noted the importance of comparing the monthly finance report to the General Fund Budget adopted and in planning for future budgets.

Resolution 21-2007 was adopted by the following vote:

Yea: Baez, Fuhs, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Sterner, Spencer President – 5.

Nay: None – 0.

COUNCIL COMMENT

Councilor Sterner thanked Mr. Sobrino for the work he does to support the Reading community. He also thanked those who participate in blood drives.

Councilor Sterner commended the Codes, Public Works department, Trash Manager, and the Managing Director for quickly resolving an illegal dumping situation last Friday. He noted the residents' appreciation for such a fast response.

Council President Spencer noted the upcoming Martin Luther King celebration and the efforts of Ron Rouse to build events honoring the work of Dr. King.

Councilor Sterner and Council President Spencer noted the work of the Young Democrats Association.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz thanked all City and County workers and volunteers for their work to provide the New Year's Eve celebration. She noted the upcoming anniversary of the Pagoda. She also announced the upcoming District 2 Crime Watch meetings.

Councilor Fuhs moved, seconded by Councilor Baez, to adjourn the regular meeting of Council.

LINDA A. KELLEHER
CITY CLERK